

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7251

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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SUBJECT: FURTHER BLOODSHED

REF: MANAGUA 3228

SUMMARY: IN A SERIES OF INCIDENTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF NICARAGUA, FIVE CIVILIANS HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF SHOOTING INCIDENTS. IN ONLY ONE CASE IS IT CLEAR THAT ELEMENTS OF THE GN WERE INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, DURING THE PERIOD 21-24 JULY, FIVE SEPARATE SHOOTING INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN PARTS OF NICARAGUA, LEAVING A TOTAL OF FIVE CIVILIANS DEAD AS A RESULT. THREE OF THE DEAD WERE STUDENTS, ONE WAS A GON OFFICIAL, ONE WAS AN EX-MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN).

2. IN MANAGUA, ON 24 JULY, LUIS ANTONIO OJEDA GUERRERO, 18 YEARS
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OLD, WAS PART OF A GROUP SOLICITING MONEY TO PAY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FELLOW STUDENT INJURED IN A PREVIOUS DEMONSTRATION. (NOTE: FREQUENTLY, SUCH SOLITICATIONS ARE ACCOMPLISHED BY ERECTING A BARRICADE OR SOME OTHER OBSTACLE WHICH PREVENTS PASSAGE OF CARS OR PEOPLE UNTIL PASSERSBY HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE. IT IS UNCLEAR IF THIS WAS THE CASE HERE. END NOTE) LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT THE GROUP WAS

SOLICITING AND SHOUTING ANTI-SOMOZA SLOGANS WHEN A MAN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES LEFT A NEARBY BAR AND STOPPED THE GROUP WITH A PISTOL. THE MAN WAS POINTING HIS PISTOL AT ONE OF THE OTHER STUDENTS WHEN LUIS ANTONIO INTERVENED. LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE OTHER STUDENTS PRESENT, LUIS ANTONIO TRIPPED AND FELL TO THE GROUND WHERE HE WAS SHOT TWICE. THE OTHER STUDENTS FLED AND THE MAN REPORTEDLY FIRED AFTER THEM.

3. MOMENTS LATER, IN A NEARBY PART OF MANAGUA JOSE PALACIOS SANCHEZ, AN EX-GN (WHO HAS TWO BROTHERS IN THE GN) WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHILE THEY WERE CHASING TWO STUDENTS. SANCHEZ, AGE 28, WAS STANDING ON A STREET CORNER WHEN, ACCORDING TO HIS BROTHER, AS QUOTED IN LA PRENSA, TWO STUDENTS ROUNDED A STREET CORNER, PURSUED BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN. APPARENTLY, ONE OF THE STUDENTS WORE A SHIRT OF THE SAME COLOR AS THAT WORN BY SANCHEZ, AND THE LATTER WAS SHOT BY MISTAKE.

4. IN JINOTEPE A STUDENT LEADER WAS SHOT BY A NIGHT-WATCHMAN THAT SAME NIGHT. JULIO ROJAS MEDRANO, 19 YEARS OLD, A LEADER OF THE SECONDARY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (AES), DIED AS A RESULT OF BEING SHOT TWICE. LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT THE WATCHMAN ORDERED ROJAS TO STOP AND ASKED HIM FROM WHERE HE HAD COME. THEN, WITHOUT FURTHER EXCHANGE, HE SHOT HIM. HOWEVER, A DIFFERENT VERSION, REPORTED IN NOVEDADES, STATED THAT ROJAS WAS ONE OF TWO MEN WHO "MENACED" THE WATCHMAN WITH A WEAPON WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN FROM ANOTHER WATCHMAN DURING THE AFTERNOON. THE WATCHMAN, RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTS NOVEDADES, FIRED IN SELF-DEFENSE. NOVEDADES REPORTS THAT THE WATCHMAN HAS BEEN REMANDED TO COMPETENT AUTHORITIES, BUT LA PRENSA REPORTS HE FLED THE SCENE.

5. ON 21 JULY, IN MASAYA, CARLOS DONALD MAYORGA BERMUDEZ WAS WOUNDED WHILE BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY ELEMENTS OF THE GN FOR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN THE BRUTAL MURDER OF GN LIEUTENANT SOLIS (REFTEL). NEWSPAPER REPORTS SAY THAT HE DIED AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL WHILE ON THE OPERATING TABLE.

6. IN MANAGUA, DURING THE EVENING OF 24 JULY, DR. OSCAR RODRIGO JUAREZ SOZA, AN OFFICIAL OF THE NICARAGUAN AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (IAN), WAS SHOT AND KILLED WHILE DRIVING IN HIS CAR. LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT JUAREZ STOPPED A NEWSBOY AND, WHILE BUYING A PAPER, ASKED THE NEWSBOY IF HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY A MOTORCYCLE. BEFORE THE NEWSBOY COULD RESPOND, JUAREZ WAS SHOT TWICE. AS NONE OF THE PEOPLE PRESENT HEARD SHOTS, IT IS SUSPECTED THAT SILENCERS WERE USED BY THE TWO ASSAILANTS WHO FIRED FIVE SHOTS. THE MOTORCYCLE HAD NO LICENSE PLATES. TWO EXPLANATIONS OF THIS KILLING ARE CIRCULATING. ONE MAINTAINS THE DEATH IS A RESULT OF A LOVE AFFAIR, A COMMON RUMOR HERE. THE SECOND CITES THE FACT THAT JUAREZ WAS INVOLVED IN ADJUDICATING LAND CLAIMS, EXPLAINING THE KILLING

AS A RESULT OF A CONTRACT BEING PUT OUT ON JUAREZ FOR HAVING
ANGERED SOME UNIDENTIFIED LARGE LANDOWNERS

7. COMMENT: IN ONLY ONE CASE IS THERE CLEAR INVOLVEMENT OF GN
ELEMENTS. LA PRENSA, AS MAY BE EXPECTED, PRESUMES THE ARMED
MEN TO BE "PARAMILITARY" ELEMENTS- A TERM USED FOR EVERYTHING FROM
PLAINCLOTHESMEN TO RETIRED MILITARY (AMROC). THE DETAILS OF THE
VARIOUS SHOOTINGS REMAIN FOGGY AND, LAMENTABLY, THE GON DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE ACTING EXPEDITIOUSLY TO GET TO THE ROOT OF THE EVENTS.
A MOST UNFORTUNATE NOTE IS THE DEATH OF MAYORGA WHICH ONLY GIVES
REIN TO SPECULATION THAT THE CAPTURING GN MEMBERS MAY HAVE REVENGED
THEMSELVES FOR SOLIS' DEATH WITHOUT REGARD FOR DUE PROCESS TO
DETERMINE IF MAYORGA WAS INDEED INVOLVED IN SOLIS' DEATH.

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